

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:RMGIBSON:MGH

APPROVED BY EA:RHMILLER

EA/TB:GBROBERTS

S/NM:JRAFFERTY

DOD/ISA:SCHARLES

S/S-O:APSHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025680

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, BM, US

SUBJECT: A VISIT BY GENERAL TIN OO

REF: RANGOON 3625

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM EA MILLER

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED YOUR MESSAGE WITH PHIL HABIB, SHELDON VANCE, AND ADMIRAL CROWE OF ISA. IT IS OUR CONSENSUS THAT ANY INVITATIONAL VISIT SHOULD BE SPONSORED BY DOD INSTEAD OF STATE. AMBASSADOR VANCE WOULD WANT TO BE INVOLVED AS WELL, BECAUSE OF THE ARMY'S ROLE IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION IN BURMA.

2. DUE TO THE HEAVY DEMANDS OF THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IS UNABLE TO INVITE GENERAL TIN OO IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEFENSE MINISTER. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY WOULD BE WILLING TO

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CO SIDER A REQUEST FOR AN INVITATION TO TIN OO AS

CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE BURMESE ARMED FORCES. SUCH
A REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE DIRECTED TO CINCPAC BY THE
EMBASSY'S DEFENSE ATTACHE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES
OUTLINED IN THE DAVIP PROGRAM FOR 1977.

3. OUR MAJOR CONCERN IS THAT THE ABOVE SOLUTION MIGHT
POSSIBLY PRESENT CERTAIN PROTOCOL PROBLEMS. INVITED
AS CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL TIN OO WOULD NOT RPT NOT
RECEIVE THE HONORS AND TREATMENT COMMENSURATE WITH HIS
MINISTERIAL RANK.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER
BEFORE GOING FURTHER WITH THE PROPOSAL. INGERSOLL

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